REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are in the case. Support for the presently amend claim 1 can be found in the specification as originally filed, on page 4, lines 22-31 and page 5, lines 5-18 (Fig. 4) and is believed to better define the invention without raising new issues that would require any additional consideration or search. The reference numerals in parenthesis have also been eliminated and US claim format has been used.

Entry of this amendment in this allowed application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket J646-005 US
MARKED VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN APP. NO. 09/672,726

--1. (Amended) A thermocycler having a heating plate ~~(1)~~ which forms a heating surface ~~(3)~~ for holding a microtitre plate ~~(13)~~ whose wells ~~(15)~~ are held in indentations ~~(4)~~ provided in the heating surface ~~(3)~~, and have a cover ~~(14)~~ which can be lowered and raised relative to the heating surface ~~(3), characterized in that~~, said cover serving for pressing the microtitre plate against the heating surface, wherein a plurality of elastically compressible lifting elements ~~(7) which, at least when the cover (14) is raised, project beyond the edges of the indentations (4)~~for rising and detaching of the microtitre plate from the heating surface are distributed over the heating surface (3).

2. (Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the projection of the lifting elements ~~(7)~~ is at least 2 mm, preferably at least 5 mm.

3. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the density of the lifting elements ~~(7)~~ is at least 1 per 30 cm^2.

4. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each lifting element ~~(7)~~ is removably fixed to the heating surface ~~(3)~~.

5. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each lifting element ~~(7)~~ is inserted into a blind hole ~~(6)~~ in the heating surface ~~(3)~~.

6. (Twice Amended) ~~T~~The thermocycler according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the fixing of the lifting element ~~(7)~~ is effected by frictional locking with the walls of the blind hole ~~(6)~~.

7. ~~Lifting element for a~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein the lifting element comprises an elongated spring element which is compressible in the longitudinal direction and carries a contact part which forms an abutting surface ~~(12)~~, oriented transversely to the longitudinal direction, at the upper end of the lifting element.

8. ~~Lifting element~~(Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the contact part consists of plastic, preferably PEEK, PTFE, FP, PPS or PI.

9. ~~Lifting element~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the spring element is in the form of a coil spring ~~(8)~~ and the contact part is in the form of a contact pin ~~(9)~~ which comprises a shaft ~~(10)~~ surrounded by the upper part of the coil spring ~~(8)~~ and a laterally projecting head ~~(11)~~ which rests on the upper end of the coil spring ~~(8)~~ and whose upper surface forms the abutting surface ~~(12)~~.

10. ~~Lifting element~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 9,

~~characterized in that~~wherein the lowermost winding of the coil spring ~~(8)~~ is somewhat wider.

11. ~~Lifting element~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the contact pin ~~(9)~~ is rotationally symmetrical.

12. ~~Lifting element~~(Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~wherein both the shaft ~~(10)~~ and the head ~~(11)~~ of the contact pin ~~(9)~~ are essentially cylindrical.

13. ~~Lifting element~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that its~~wherein the length of the lifting element is between 15 mm and 20 mm and the diameter of the abutting surface ~~(12)~~ is at least 3 mm.

14. ~~Lifting element~~(Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to ~~c~~claim 7, ~~characterized in that its~~wherein the spring constant of the lifting element is at least ~~5 N/mm.~~